

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 SPM-01 COME-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /072 W

----- 015281

R 031456Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1942

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, PINS, PINT, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN CENSUS TAKING COMPLETED

REF: LAGOS 9547

1. AFTER ONE DAY EXTENSION OF ENUMERATION PERIOD
DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES CITED IN REFTEL,
NIGERIAN CENSUS TAKING ENDED AT 1900 SUNDAY
EVENING.

2. UNDER QUESTIONING BY NEW NIGERIAN REPORTER,
CENSUS CHIEF ADEMOLA DECLARED ENUMERATION OVERALL
SUCCESS, BUT ADMITTED THERE HAD BEEN UNDERCOUNTING
IN SOME AREAS--PARTICULARLY IN LARGE CITIES.
HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THIS URBAN UNDERCOUNTING
WAS NOT EXTRAORDINARY SINCE, EVEN IN DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES, MANY PEOPLE ARE MISSED DURING HEADCOUNTS
IN LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS.

3. COMMENT: CENSUS APPEARS TO HAVE GONE AS SMOOTHLY
AS COULD REASONABLY HAVE BEEN HOPED. COMPLAINTS
AND FAILINGS HAVE SO FAR CENTERED ON LOGISTIC
MATTERS, ALTHOUGH SOME PETTY CORRUPTION HAS BEEN
REPORTED.

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4. ADMITTED UNDERCOUNTING, WHICH AFFECTED
MAINLY LAGOS AND IBADAN, INCREASES POTENTIAL
FOR DISPUTE ONCE STATE POPULATION FIGURES ARE
RELEASED. ADEMOGD'S STATEMENT ABOUT NORMALITY
OF URBAN UNDERCOUNTING IS UNDOUBTEDLY CORRECT,
BUT WILL NONETHELESS GIVE WEIGHT TO YORUBA
GRIEVANCES IF CENSUS FIGURES GIVE NORTH MAJORITY
OF POPULATION WHILE PREDOMINANTLY YORUBA URBAN
AREAS MOST SERIOUSLY UNDERCOUNTED.
CROSBY

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